Storage and transit shortages for the food-

grains during the year 1989-90 were as follows:

Total storage and transit losses

Quantity (in Lakh Mts.)	Percentage of Loss on Purchase — Sales in Terms of Quantity
2.96	0.85

(b) The steps taken by the FCI to reduce the storage and transit losses are:

(i) Strict enforcement of quality specifications relating to moisture during procurement of foodgrains;

(ii) Reduction in the quantum of foodgrains filled in each bag;

(iii) Installation of weigh-bridges in depots having capacity of 5000 tonnes or more;

(iv) Minimising the use of open wagons;

(v) Administrative measures such as tightening of security at depots, intensifling surprise checks, assuring regular stock verifications etc.;

(vi) Augmentation of covered storage capacity;

(vii) Introduction of machine stitching of bags.

Charges for Payment to Wagon Builders

1828. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the recommendations made by the Finance Ministry with regard to the quantum of the fabrication charges for payment to wagon builders;

(b) whether it is fact that Private Wagon Builders are given ten per cent more for fabrication as compared to public sector wagon builders;

(c) If so, the reasons for it;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some wagon builders have been over-paid crores of rupees per year because of the miscalculation by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Price (BICP) and the Cost Accounts branch of the Finance Ministry; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Ministry of Finance have recommended payment of overhead percentage of 182 per cent for the Private Sector and 200 per cent Public Sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Hike in the Rate of Escalation

1829. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of escalation at the rate of point zero one per cent to be paid to M/s. Bharat Electric and Steel Company Limited and M/s. Hindustan Development Corporation for manufacturing of CMS crossing (as agreed to in their agreement with Railway Board) has been raised to much higher per cent;

(b) if so, what was the enhanced rate and the extra amount involved in its payment; and

(c) the reasons for making payment at the enhanced rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The agreement provides forrate of escalation of 0.1 per cent which has not been raised.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Disconnection of First Class bogey from 'Puri Express' and 'Neelanchal Express' trains

1830. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one first class bogey has been disconnected from Puri Express and Neelanchal Express Trains linking Puri and New Delhi causing serious inconvenience to passengers; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof and by when the former position of these trains are porposed to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) One First class coach was replaced by a II Class coach from November '88 to provide more accommodation to second class passengers. One A.C. 2 tier and one First class coach, presently running on the train provide the required accommodation.

Export of Button Mushrooms.

1831. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that the demand for button mushrooms in North America from ethnic Chinese population and others is being unsatiated due to supply constraints from Taiwan and that the cooperatives in North America are looking towardfis India after the recent success of ambitious programme to beest mushroom cultivation in Himachal Pradesh which accounts for one third of total country's output while the only constraint in exports of button mushrooms has been the disparity between domestic and export prices the former being higher due to increasing domestic demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : There is demand for Mushrooms from North America. Details of export potential due to supply constraints of button mushrooms from Taiwan to North America are not available. Approximately 5000 tonnes of mushrooms of all varieties are produced annually in the country. The total production of mushroom in Himachal Pradesh is approximately 450—550 metric tonne of which 350—500 metric tonne is button mushroom. The domestic price of button mushroom in Himarchal Pradesh is between Rs. 25 to Rs. 34/- per kg. The main constraints in developing the export market of button mushroom are as follows:—

(1) Lack of proper marketing infrastructure especially for highly perishable button mushrooms.

(2) Lack of adequate market information and coordination between exporters and growers with reference to quality and quantity of product required.

(3) High cost of production.

Encroachment on Public Land in Delhi

1832. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increasing encroachment of public purpose lands or Government lands is going on in Delhi and its surrounding areas;